

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALTURAS FIELD OFFICE

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Alturas Field Office – LLCAN02000

NEPA File No.: DOI-BLM-CA-N020-2012-0021-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Clearwater Lodge Guided Fly-Fishing Trips

Location of Proposed Action: Guided fishing trips on the Pit River which originate at the BLM Pit River campground, and utilize the Pit River from the campground to Lake Britton in Shasta County, California. Mount Diablo Meridian, T. 36 N., R.4 E. (see attached map).

Description of Proposed Action:

This proposed action is to issue a Special Recreation Permit for guided fly fishing trips on the Pit River. Trips would include, wading, floating, and rafting. Launch activities will involve the Pit River campground and facilities. Permit holder or assigns are limited to one float per day, and all must provide their own insurance with BLM listed as additionally insured for liability. All boats and rafts shall be Quagga and Zebra mussel free, and shall be inspected prior to entry into the water. Operation is generally 6/1-11/15.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This action conforms to the Alturas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved on April 17, 2008 because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the RMP objectives and decisions.

**C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with H-1790-1-National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Appendix 4, p. 153:

**H. Recreation Management**

1. Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).

**D. Signature**

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been scoped by an interdisciplinary team of specialists in the Alturas Field Office and there were no issues or unresolved conflicts identified. I have determined that the above described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the Alturas RMP, and does not require further NEPA analysis.

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Timothy J. Burke  
Field Manager

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Date

**E. Contact**

For more information, contact Claude Singleton, at (530) 233-4666

## Review of Extraordinary Circumstances

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional environmental analysis/documentation.

### Would the proposed action: (YES or NO)

- 1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

- 2) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/10/2012 DJS

Comments: No adverse effects to any known historic properties or cultural resources.

Comments: No significant impacts to drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or other ecologically significant areas. 4/13/12, MPD

No BLM Wilderness or Wilderness Study Area exists on the parcels within this parcel. All Public Lands within the Alturas Field Office were analyzed and summarized in the 1979 wilderness inventory pursuant to the Federal Land Policy Management Act. The contiguous lands within this management unit total 170 acres. These lands were not inventoried for wilderness values in 1979 due to being under 5,000 acres in size, and did not exhibit wilderness characteristics. Changes in this area since the 1979 inventory include: A reconstructed campground with nine camping areas, a day use area with an accessible raft launch and fishing area, as well as a paved access road. The wilderness characteristics inventory was updated in 2011, and no lands with wilderness characteristics were found within the project area. This issue will not be assessed further in this document. See the 2011 Wilderness Inventory (CA-NO-02-319) for additional information. CS 4-17-2012.

- 3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

- 4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

- 5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

6) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

7) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/10/2012 DJS

Comments:

8) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 04/13/12, MPD

Comments: No impacts to any listed or proposed listed T&E plant species or their critical habitat.

9) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

10) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/17/2012 CS

Comments:

11) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/10/2012 DJS

Comments:

12) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Date: 4/20/2011

Comments: Clearwater Lodge Guided Fly-Fishing Trips would have a low probability to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. The Pit River Campground and the access road has 20 yellow starthistle, 4 St. Johnswort and 1 Scotch thistle points, 2 yellow starthistle lines and 1 yellow starthistle polygon as documented in the 2011 Alturas GIS –Noxious Weeds Database. All sites were treated in 2009, 2010 and again in 2011. BLM will continue to inventory the Pit River Campground to ensure noxious weeds are controlled or eradicated. AMU

**Reviewers:**

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Botany/Riparian

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Date

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Cultural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wildlife

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Invasive Species

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recreation/Wilderness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date